WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A homogeneous, amorphous catalyst support comprising a modifying-metal-oxide and a base-metal oxide, in which the modifying-metal-oxide is homogeneously distributed throughout the base-metal oxide, the catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk modifying-metal /base-metal atomic ratio of from about 0.6 to about 1.3 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by the base-metal oxide.

2. A catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof.

3. A catalyst support according to claim 1, wherein the base-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania and mixtures thereof.

4. A catalyst support according to claim 3, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof.

5. A catalyst support according to claim 4, wherein the base-metal oxide is alumina and the modifying-metal-oxide is silica.

6. A catalyst support according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 70 wt% to about 99.75 wt% alumina.

7. A catalyst support according to claim 5, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 90 wt% to about 99 wt% alumina.

8. A catalyst support according to claim 5, which has been prepared by a cogel process.

9. A homogeneous, amorphous silica-modified-alumina catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk Si/Al ratio of from about 0.6 to about 1.3 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by unmodified alumina.

10. A catalyst support according to claim 9, wherein the Surface to Bulk Si/Al ratio is from about 0.8 to about 1.2.

11. A catalyst support according to claim 9, wherein the Surface to Bulk Si/Al ratio is from about 0.9 to about 1.1.

12. A catalyst support according to claim 9, wherein the Surface to Bulk Si/Al ratio is from about 1.0.

13. A catalyst support according to claim 9, wherein the catalyst support comprises from about 70 wt% to about 99.75 wt% alumina.

14. A homogeneous, amorphous silica-modified-alumina catalyst support exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having a broader linewidth and lower intensity than is exhibited by unmodified alumina.

15. A catalyst support according to claim 14, wherein the full linewidth is 50% greater than the linewidth of unmodified alumina when measured at half height.

16. A catalyst support according to claim 14, wherein the intensity is at least 25% lower than for the unmodified alumina.

17. A catalyst for the Fischer-Tropsch process comprising a homogeneous, amorphous catalyst support comprising a modifying- metal-oxide and a base-metal oxide, in which the modifying-metal-oxide is homogeneously distributed throughout the base-metal oxide, the catalyst support having a Surface to Bulk modifying-metal /base-metal

atomic ratio of from about 0.6 to about 1.3 and exhibiting an X-ray diffraction having broader line width and lower intensity than is exhibited by the base-metal oxide and a catalytically active Group VIII metal.

18. A catalyst according to claim 17, further comprising at least one promoter.

19. A catalyst according to claim 17, wherein the modifying-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of silica, titania, zirconia, magnesia and mixtures thereof, the base-metal-oxide is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania and mixtures thereof.

20. A catalyst according to claim 19, wherein the catalytically active Group VIII metal is selected from the group consisting of cobalt, iron and mixtures thereof.